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MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Intelligence Support Directorate of Intelligence 11 October 1966

THRU: Director of Basic Intelligence

THRU: Deputy Director of Central Reference

FROM: Information Processing Coordinator, OBI

SUBJECT: Requirements for Automatic Data Processing Research and Development in the Office of Basic Intelligence

1. In response to your memorandum of 22 August 1966 and a subsequent message from [REDACTED] on 13 September 1966, I am submitting a brief statement of ADP problems in the Office of Basic Intelligence that warrant R&D support. Projects have been divided into those currently under way, proposed, and planned.

2. Current Projects

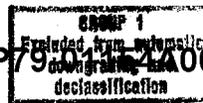
a. Project EPIC: EPIC is a joint OCS/PSD/OBI program initiated in May 1964. Its purpose is to develop a computer assisted system for the composition of NIS text for printing. The EPIC system was implemented in July 1966 and the first NIS section produced under the system was published in September. Further refinements in the system will continue until all NIS sections are produced in the EPIC system. Efforts should be concentrated on a similar system for graphics, particularly photographs.

b. Target Plotting from Inventory: An OCS/OBI project is now under way for automatically assembling and plotting of installations of intelligence interest on published map sheets. Installation data in machine form is sorted and listed by map sheet and category. Unique symbols for each category and the target identifiers are then automatically plotted on individual map sheets. Optional placement of the identifiers would be a logical extension of this project. In addition many of the listings produced by the FIB, GR, and SR components of OCS, NSA, and other DOD units are now used to manually plot targets. Reduction of handwork and more frequently updated plots are benefits to be derived from the adoption of a similar automated system.

c. Project AUTOMAP: Automap is a joint OBI/OCS project for the development of an automated mapping system through the use of the computer and automatic plotting table. Line and point descriptions are stored digitally to furnish on demand any portion of the earth's surface, at any scale, using any projection within certain limitations.

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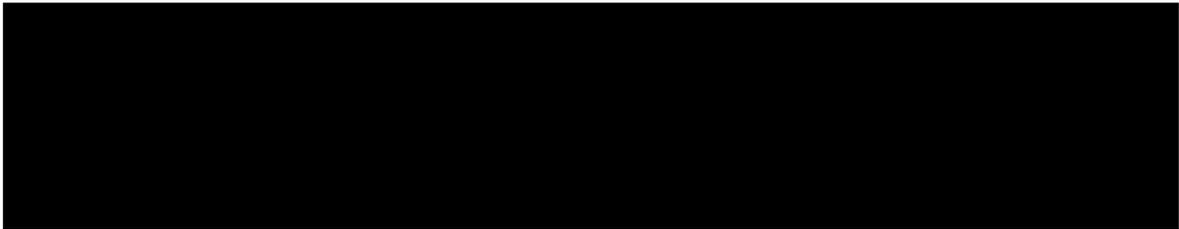
- 2 -

Preliminary studies began in the spring of 1965 and the prototype system is anticipated in November 1966. Refinements of the input and retrieval systems will continue into calendar 1967.

3. Proposed Projects

a. HIS Gazetteers: In early FY 67, a formal request was made of OCS to make a feasibility study for developing a computer system to assist in the production of HIS gazetteers. A previous study was made in 1962 at which time the conclusion reached was that it was not economically feasible to convert the gazetteer production to a computerized system. This decision was based mainly on the cost of a print chain with the necessary diacritics. However, the acquisition of an electronic phototypesetting machine has since changed the picture. The advantages of a computerized system would be the rapid updating capability, elimination of marking diacritics by hand, and upper and lower case printing. The Communist China Gazetteer, scheduled in FY 68, would be an ideal one to have in a system that would permit a rapid and continuous updating capability.

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4. Planned Projects

a. Color Microfilm System: MLD/BI has a requirement for a practical 35mm color microfilm system which could be incorporated into its present black and white microfilm aperture card system. Approximately 25 percent of the map collection (about 75,000 maps) is comprised of colored maps which must be photographed in color if they are to be fully usable as microforms. Existing color films, however, do not provide adequate resolution at the photographic reductions required for microfilming maps. While the primary requirement is for a color film with adequate line definition qualities, long-range requirements include an inexpensive and rapid color print-out capability on office equipment. In applying R&D on this problem it is felt that considerable color fidelity can be sacrificed if resolution could thereby be improved.

b. Optical Scanning Equipment: Cartography is most interested in automatic or semiautomatic optical scanning equipment that would convert a completed manuscript to digital form suitable for automatic plotting. This conversion process is the biggest bottleneck in the production of maps. Its solution would result in increased capability and a substantial reduction in man-hours currently expended.

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- 3 -

c. Reports Generation: Three of the OBI Divisions publish reports that are revised periodically. Some are on punched paper tape and others on punchcards. A fully automated system for these publications would permit rapid updating on a more timely basis. The publications and their generating media are the Basic Intelligence Factbook (punched paper tape), MIS Production Status Report (punched cards), Acquisition List of Maps of Foreign Areas (punched cards), and Index to Plans of Selected Cities (punched cards).

d. Management Information Systems: An extension of the CD/BI production records system into scheduling and priority guidance is anticipated. Currently the system has 20,000 punchcards and generates monthly and quarterly listings. Conversion to a computer system for weekly and possibly daily reports will be needed. The feasibility of a remote station should also be studied.

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